

Fort Lauderdale High School
(SAC) School Advisory Council Minutes 11/4/2025

Attendance

Present:

Stacey Blecker	Esther Klavan	Frances Pizzi
Erin Brown	Asha Lewis	Valerie Ruwe
Dee Defoe	Delcarmen Linares-Colon	Jacelyn Shiring
Loretta Edwards	Damas Marcelon	Alexandra Zaden
Sara Gold	Dave Martin	
Jacklyn James	Rigoberto Paz	

SAC Call to Order

A meeting of the Fort Lauderdale High School Advisory Council was held in Room 2072 at 3:30pm on November 4, 2025. Valerie Ruwe, SAC Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 3:34pm and turned the meeting over to Diana Ospina to start with priority items. Quorum was established.

Desired outcomes:

- Welcome
- Principal Report
- Extended Learning Opportunities (Voting item)
- A+ Ballot (Voting Item)
- Minutes - October (Voting item)
- Continuation Waiver
- SIP Monitoring and Feedback
- SESIR Data Monitoring
- SAC Funds

I. Principal Report | Erin Brown

Ms. Brown shared the following:

- Homecoming update. Terrific homecoming week. Included spirit days, “hall of fame” day for athletics ,and other activities. At hall of fame day, Coach Martin was inducted alongside ~10 others. Beat Stranahan HS at the game. Dance was beautifully done and well attended - thank you to Ms. Carmichael who did a wonderful job.
- Discussed homecoming dance budget. Previous years’ budgets were ~\$40K. Action taken to follow up on total for this year. Confirmed that all funding comes from students via ticket sales.

- Students of Character breakfast with the Principal for ~40 students that were nominated for responsibility and cooperation. This bi-monthly event is a great chance to recognize all students.
- School Choice window opened this week. Open House is November 18th: includes school tour at 5:30, and presentation at 6:45. Please encourage people to attend. Additional volunteers are welcome at SAC/SAF table.
- FLHS is up for Sun Sentinel's "Best in Education in S. Florida", so keep voting! A request made to share the direct link to vote in addition to the QR code. Individuals can vote once per day.
- Several at FLHS are finalists for Broward teacher/staff members of the year.
- The Principal Advisory students (select 9-12th graders) met with Ms. Brown to share concerns, what is working, what to be enhanced, e.g., bathroom improvements. This group also creates committees to change things at school.
- Celebration for honor roll coming up for Q1.
- Other items
 - Last day for Harvest Drive items is November 10th. Students receive 1 volunteer hour per 10 cans donated. Suggestion for a reminder call about Harvest Drive to encourage participation. Stacey Blecker and Ms. Ruwe took an action to supply fliers, create reminder announcements, and get information up on website.
 - Ms. Blecker shared that the new testing app is now live.

II. Extended Learning Opportunities (Voting Item)

- Soaring L's, Algebra/Geometry, ELA | Diana Ospina, Assistant Principal
 - Soaring L's: Peer Mentoring, pairs mentors and mentees during study hall.
 - Motion made: To take \$2,000 from school accountability funds for Soaring L's to pay for instructional personnel, field trips and other SBBC approved vendors by Alexandra Zaden. Second by Jacklyn James. All voting members approved the motion.
 - Algebra/Geometry: Goal to raise proficiency scores in 2025-2026 to 60% overall.
 - Motion Made: To take \$1,200 from school accountability funds for Algebra/Geometry to pay for instructional personnel, field trips, and other SBBC approved vendors by Ms. James. Second by Delcarmen Linares-Colon. All voting members approved the motion.
 - ELA: Focus on skills to pass FAST Reading 10th grade graduation requirement. Goal to achieve 76% proficiency on PM3 in 2025-2026.
 - Motion made: To take \$1,700 from school accountability funds for ELA to pay for instructional personnel, field trips, and other SBBC approved vendors by Ms. James. Seconded by Loretta Edwards. All voting members approved the motion.
- Biology | Ms. Karleen Thompson, Biology Department
 - These 45 minute sessions for ~380 9th and 10th graders during study hall enabled scores to go from 74% to 84% last year. The goal is 87% for 2025-2026 school year.
 - Ms. Edwards requested clarification that the \$1,200 would allow sessions to be open to all Biology students, and that any unused funds would rollover to next year (stays within the accountability accounts). Ms. Thompson and Ms. Brown confirmed.

- Motion made: To take \$1,200 from school accountability funds for Biology to pay instructional personnel, field trips, and other SBBC approved vendors by Dee Defoe. Seconded by Ms. Edwards. All voting members approved the motion.
- Positive Behavior Plan | Valerie Ruwe
 - Positive Behavior Plan: Physical reward coupons working better than the PBIS system. Open to all students. Amount requested is \$500 Publix, Kiona ice, office depot/staples and other SBBC approved vendors
 - Francis Pizzi requested clarification about school accountability and recognition funding. Ms. Ruwe and Ms. Brown shared that the funding is annual based on the number of students. Recognition is because FLHS is an A+ school, and faculty have passed a ballot to give a percentage of funds back to the students. This will be reduced as the amount of A schools increases (as it is shared amongst more schools).
 - Motion made: To take \$500 from recognition funds to purchase positive behavior incentives from Publix, Kiona ice, office depot/staples and other SBBC approved vendors by Ms. Edwards. Seconded by Ms. Defoe. All voting members approved the motion.
- Kids of Character | Erin Brown
 - Bi-monthly staff submit nominations for students fulfilling selected character trait. ~40 receive kids reward lunch and ceremony. Has not been funded by SAC previously, but is an existing program. Publix, Kiona ice, office depot/staples and other SBBC approved vendors would be used for these events
 - Motion made to take \$1,000 in funds from recognition funding for Kids of Character by Ms. Defoe. Seconded by Ms. Linares-Colon. All voting members approved the motion.
- STAR After School Programs | Stacey Blecker
 - Program pays teachers to tutor students after school. Adjusting funding request based on last year and reducing number of teachers. Program to run from late November/December through May. Ms. Blecker asked the group whether students are asking about STAR. Esther Klavan shared that yes students love STAR, well received. Provides very wide range of help, even SAT prep.
 - Motion made to take \$22,742 from school recognition funding for STAR (instructional/non-instructional staff, Publix, other vendors) by Ms. Defoe. Given this is a lower amount than last year, it was noted that Ms. Blecker would come back to the SAC in January if more funding is needed. Seconded by Ms. Linares-Colon. All voting members approved the motion.

IV. A+ Ballot (Voting Item)

Ms. Ruwe updated on the A+ ballot:

- Draft email to all staff needs to be approved by SAC, then will be voted on by all stakeholders. Must pass by January 31st. If not, all funding goes to classroom teachers.
- Draft proposes that 7% of A+ funding be allocated to the school recognition fund, with remaining balance to be awarded to full-time and part-time staff, shared equally. This is the same as previous year, which passed.
- Motion made: To approve the ballot as written by Ms. Jackson. Seconded by Ms. Edwards. All voting members approved the motion.

V. Continuation Waiver

- Professional Study Day (PSD) continuation waiver.

VI. Meeting Minutes - October

- Motion made: To approve the October meeting minutes with the noted corrections by Ms. Defoe. All voting members approved.

VII. SESIR Data Monitoring

- Ms. Ruwe shared latest SESIR data.

VIII. SAC Funds

IX. SAC Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made at 5:00 pm by Ms. Defoe Seconded by Ms. James.

NEXT MEETING: Combined SAC/SAF Tuesday, December 2nd at 3:30pm room 2072.